

Managers hold the stage

Sports Reporter

With the SAARC cricket tournament pushed to the background by the recent spate of violent incidents triggered by the demolition of a mosque in India, the managers of the participating teams held the stage with their reactions and speculations about the remaining matches of the nine-day long tournament.

Indian manager Ravi Jeebhoy was the cynosure of the news-hounds yesterday for obvious reasons. Talking to The Daily Star, the reserve wicketkeeper of the Indian team in the tour of the West Indies in 1970-71 quipped, "We have come here to play matches and we are wistfully looking forward to a successful completion of the four-nation tournament."

A lot depends on how the situation prevails in the next few days. It is neither in the hands of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) nor in ours.

"Ours is a goodwill trip. We have come here to help Bangladesh develop its cricket. But if the situation deteriorates as the team leader I have to take the decision keeping in mind the safety of my players."

The tall, good-looking Indian official said the decision of staying and quitting has got nothing to do with the Indian High Commission in Bangladesh.

Pakistani manager Mian Waseem Ahmed Nasir Bhatti was, however, more concerned with today's match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Clad in traditional Pakistani national dress of kurta and pyjama, Bhatti seconded the suggestions of the queering newsmen that his side need to bolster the run rate to stay in contention apart from trying to register their second victory in this tournament.

The less politic-Pakistani official, however, declined to comment on today's line-up.

Even then it is clear that inform Basit Ali and Shahid Anwar will open the Pakistan innings.

About the future of the tournament aimed at improving ties among the SAARC countries, Bhatti said "I will recommend to the BCCB to make this tournament a regular feature."

Biswas expected to open 5th Bangladesh Games

The 5th Bangladesh Games will begin at 3 pm on December 18 at the Dhaka National Stadium, reports UNB.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas is expected to open the eight day sports extravaganza of the country.

About 1,500 sportspersons of the country will participate in 21 sporting disciplines at 18 different venues in the city.

The disciplines included in the Games are: athletics, swimming, kabaddi, football, volleyball, basketball, handball, shooting, hockey, tennis, table tennis, rowing, judo, gymnastics, boxing, badminton, wrestling, weightlifting, bodybuilding, cycling and squash.

The main attraction of the opening ceremony will be the Games song, written by DR Mohammad Moniruzzaman and composed by renowned music director Samar Das. Noted vocalist Syed Abdul Hadi and Shahnaz Rahmatullah will lead the chorus ensemble who will present the song from a moving vehicle.

The opening ceremony will be followed by a football match of the Games.

The organisers are trying to include some other items to make the opening ceremony more attractive.

A budget of Taka five lakh has been earmarked for the opening and closing ceremonies of the Games, organisers said.

IOC for water-tight doping rules

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Dec 8: Legal loopholes in Olympic dope-test procedures are to be closed to prevent court battles of the kind which resulted in Butch Reynolds winning a multi-million-dollar damages claim, reports Reuters.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) agreed on Monday to set up a group of legal experts to look into making procedures water-tight before the next Summer Games in Atlanta in 1996.

International sports governing bodies have been alarmed by last week's US court award of 27.3-million, dollar to American 400-metres would record-holder Reynolds against the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF).

The IAAF suspended Reynolds for two years in 1990 after he allegedly failed a dope test. The athlete maintained

the test had not been carried out correctly.

IOC Medical Commission chief Prince Alexandre de Merode told reporters it was essential to close loopholes at a time when courts seemed less interested in whether an athlete had taken drugs and more in whether there was a flaw in the test procedures.

The laboratory which made the test in this case was accredited by the IOC and we trust it and its procedures," he said. "Anyway, if one court says something, another court can always say something else."

But he said sports bodies must have "perfect" rules to prevent athletes who failed test seeking escape through civil courts.

Though the IOC's rules would only apply at Olympic Games, the Swiss-based body has long been urging international federations to follow its lead and standardise dope test regulations and penalties.



A BORDER LINE CASE: South African captain Kepler Wessels caught in a desperate attempt to reach the crease with the throw about to hit the stumps at the bowler's end. Wessels made 43 as his side beat India by six wickets in the first one-dayer in Cape Town on Monday. — Star TV photo

Pakistan will go all out

Sports Reporter

Players are returning to the stage today. The SAARC cricket tournament, the first-ever instant cricket competition comprising four countries of South Asia — India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh — resumes today after a day's un-called for rest with Pakistan playing their last league match against Sri Lanka.

Cricket came to an abrupt halt on Monday with a section of agitated people, protesting the demolition of the Babri Mosque in Ayodhya, India forced their way in to the stadium during the Bangladesh-India match on Monday and exploded home-made crackers which led to the premature death of the match.

Sent in to bat first by Bangladesh captain Minhazul Abedin Nannu, the Indian openers Navjot Singh Sidhu and Surendra Bhav had put on 30 on the board from 8.1 overs when trouble broke out in the stands and players ran for the safety of the pavilion.

According to an announcement of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB), the unfinished match will be held tomorrow, Thursday night from the beginning. Spectators who entered the field on the fateful day will be able to watch tomorrow's match by producing the remainder of their tickets at the gates.

Returning from futurity's reference to the immediate present, today's match holds the key to Pakistan's hopes of qualifying as the finalists as well as a very, very tenuous possibility of Sri Lanka's staying in the competition.

Sri Lanka are yet to open their account with a lowly net run rate of 2.11. So the is-

landers have to beat Pakistan today by a mile and the chances of such a feat are very bleak indeed regarding the strength of the second string team from the youngest Test playing nation of Asia. The Sri Lankan will look for inspiration from paceman Wendall Labrooy, younger brother of Test paceman Graeme Labrooy and hard-hitting opener Sajith Fernando. Wendall Labrooy, the young right-arm fast medium bowler, has been bowling impressively, showing fine turn of



speed and control. Along with Tanveer Mehdi of Pakistan Labrooy has appeared to be the quickest of operators with the leather in this tournament.

Sajith Fernando, the left-handed opening batsman, impressed with his aggressive batting in the match against India which Sri Lanka lost by 67 runs. Apart from being a hard-hitting batsman adept in lofting the ball over the fielders' heads in the initial overs Fernando is quite an accurate off-spin bowler.

The rest of the Sri Lankan team has not clicked yet. Highly rated players like Nishant Ranatunga, Chaminda Mendis and Pubudu Disanayake have not done anything to draw attention.

The Pakistan team with two Test cricketers — wicket-keeper captain Moin Khan and batsman Zahid Fazal — in their

ranks have not given any signs of upsetting pre-tournament favourites India so far. Quite a few individual performances have been there, particularly in the match against Bangladesh which the World Cup champions won by five wickets.

The Pakistani B team is yet to stake its claims for the trophy scheduled to be decided on December 11. Their pro-faced paceman Tanveer Mehdi has enhanced his reputation as the fastest bowler of the tournament. Shahid Anwar, Shahed Javed and Basit Ali will be the mainstays in their batting. Pakistan are better off than Sri Lanka with one win and an average run rate of .51.

India are at the top of the points table with four points from two matches and a fairly healthy net run rate of 1.03. Bangladesh who created sensation on the opening day beating Sri Lanka are placed second only to India with one win, one loss, two points and a net run-rate of .9.

In the event of a defeat by a reasonable margin Pakistan will still be in the running for a place in the final on December 11. In that case, however, they will have to wait for the result of the match between Bangladesh and India. Assuming that both Pakistan and Sri Lanka lose their last matches then the net run rate will be the criterion to decide the second finalists.

Whatever the equation, Pakistan have to go all out in today's match to improve their run rate, so that they stay ahead of Bangladesh. A victory for Pakistan in today's match and a defeat for Bangladesh will, however, rule out any room for calculations with the former joining India as the other finalists.

The match starts at 9:30 am.

Transvaal fined for ball-tampering

CAPE TOWN, Dec 8: South African provincial cricket side Transvaal have been given a suspended fine after being found guilty of ball-tampering, reports Reuters.

The sentence was announced by Allan Jordan, the United Cricket Board of South Africa executive member who convened the disciplinary committee hearing.

He said the 5,000 rand (1,700 dollar) fine was suspended because it was the "first time that this type of offence has raised its head in South African cricket."

The tampering involved lifting the quarter seam of the ball to gain more movement

and occurred at a domestic first-class match against Eastern Province on Nov 20-23.

At the time the offence was spotted, at tea on the opening day, Province were approaching 200 with two wickets down.

Jordan said, "No individual could be positively identified with the incident."

Transvaal, whose attack included one-day international spinner Clive Eksteen along with Graham Stevenson, Stefan Jacobs, Dean Laing and Brad White, were bowling. They are captained by Test opener Jimmy Cook.

The fine is suspended on condition Transvaal are not found guilty of a similar offence before the end of the 1993-94 season.

Allegations of ball-tampering

by Pakistan surfaced in England in August when the ball was changed during the England innings of a one-day international at Lord's.

Match officials, and subsequently the International Cricket Council, refused to specify the reason for the ball change.

England batsman Allan Lamb alleged in a British newspaper that Pakistan had doctored the ball to achieve lethal late swing, and was fined by the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) for his unauthorised remarks.

In October, Surrey admitted four ball-tampering offences in English county cricket over the past three seasons.

They issued their findings after being fined 1,000 pounds sterling (1,640 dollars) by the TCCB.

England's tour of India in jeopardy

LONDON, Dec 8: English cricket chiefs are worried they may have to call off next month's tour of India because of violence spreading across the country, reports AP.

After hearing reports of killings, riots and curfews, the Test and County Cricket Board said it would seek advice from Britain's Foreign Office before the team leaves for India Dec 28.

"It is a matter of some concern," ICCB official Tim Lamb said. "Naturally we are monitoring the situation closely."

Police shot dead 40 rioters in Bombay, 21 people were killed in Jaipur and an indefinite curfew was imposed on Calcutta after Hindu militants demolished a mosque in Ayodhya. England's team, led by Graham Gooch, are due to play in all three of those cities during their ten-week tour.

Nat'l hockey from tomorrow

Sports Reporter

The preliminary round of the 15th national hockey championship will begin tomorrow with Bangladesh Railway taking on Bangladesh Air Force in the inaugural match at 3 pm at the Dhaka Hockey Stadium.

The final round comprising the quarterfinalists will be held from December 18 to 24 during the fifth Bangladesh Games at the same venue.

Although the 20-team preliminary round will be conducted on a knock-out basis, the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF), organisers of the meet, are yet to decide the final round format.

An official of the BHF told The Daily Star yesterday that they would like to stage the final round on a league basis, dividing the eight teams in two groups with the top two teams from each group playing in the semifinals.

"In that case the participating teams will have adequate exposure which will have a positive impact on the game itself," said the official.

But this may not be possible because of lack of enough time," regretted the official.

The BHF will decide the issue at its next meeting next week.

Twenty teams split into four groups will participate in the preliminary round. They are Dhaka, Peropur, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Patuakhali and Sylhet (Group A); Bangladesh Army, Chittagong, Noakhali, Mymensingh, Dhaka Education Board (Group B); Faridpur, Bangladesh Air Force, Bangladesh Railway, Rajshahi, and Bangladesh Navy in Group C and Dhaka University, Gazipur, Bangladesh Police, Jessore and Munshiganj, in Group D.

Gazipur will play Police and Noakhali will face Chittagong in the two matches scheduled for December, the second day of the meet.

On December 12, Navy will meet Rajshahi while Army will clash with the winners of the match between Noakhali and Chittagong.

Mymensingh will taken on Dhaka Education Board and BUET will play Peropur on December 13.

Dhaka University will meet the victors of the match between Gazipur and Police on December 14.

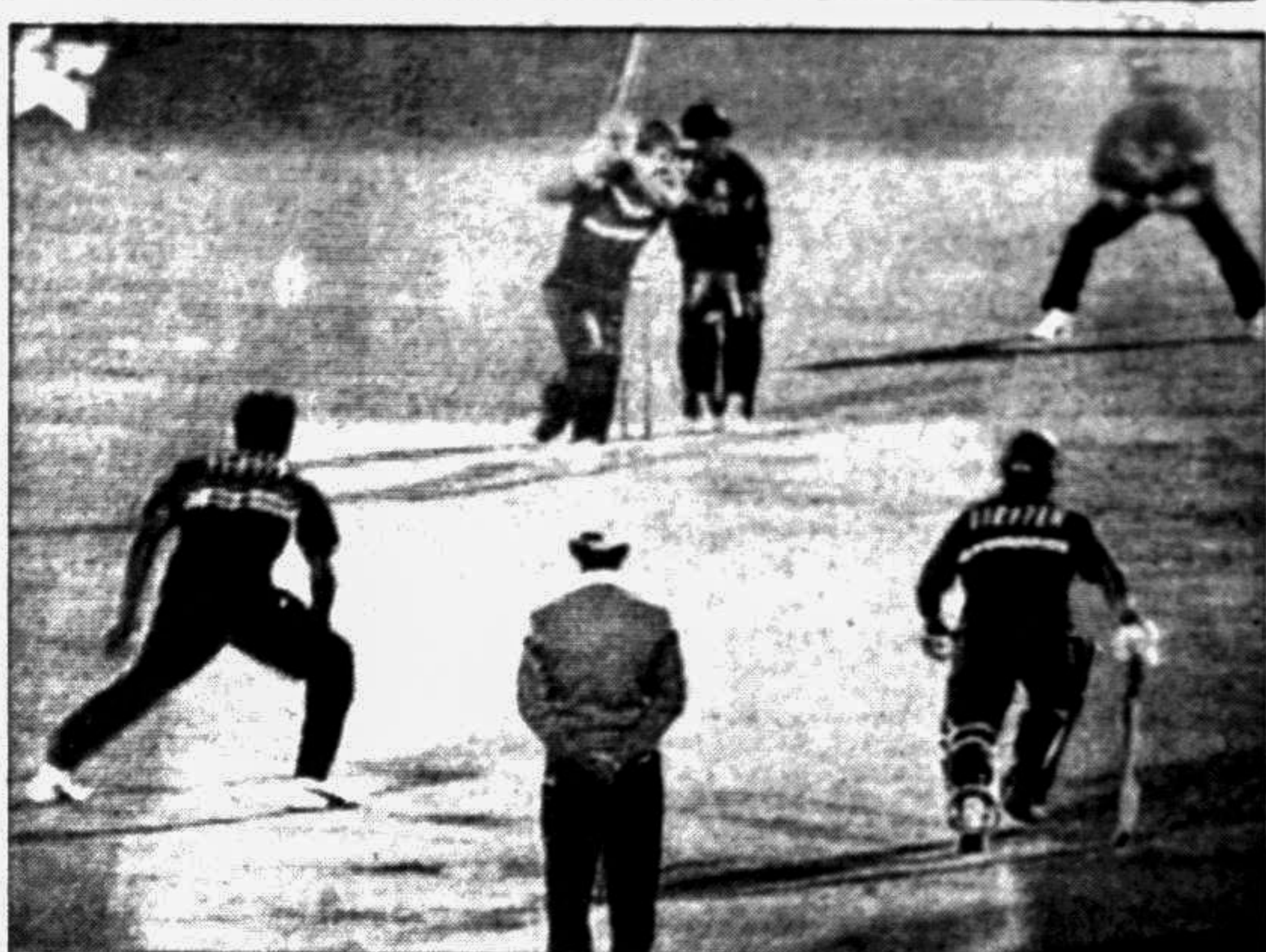
On December 15, Jessore will face Munshiganj and Patuakhali will play Sylhet in the two matches.

Faridpur will take on the winners of the match between Air Force and Railway on December 16, the closing day of the preliminary round.

The teams will be put up at different city clubs, hotels and the National Sports Council hostel.

About one and a half lakh taka will be needed to conduct this year's national hockey championship.

The fixtures of the final round will be announced in due course.



Kepler Wessels, the South African skipper, driving Indian Anil Kumble in the first limited-over cricket match at the Newlands ground in Cape Town on Monday. Wessels scored 43. — Star TV photo

Cronje carves SA win

CAPE TOWN, Dec 8: Hansie Cronje produced a compelling all-round performance as South Africa beat India by six wickets in a tense climax to the first one-day cricket international on Monday, reports Reuters.

Cronje, who hit the winning runs in the World Cup in Adelaide last March when these teams last met in a limited overs international, repeated the feat with a six to clinch victory with three balls to spare.

That gave him 12 net out from five deliveries to follow his career-best bowling of five for 32 and a catch.

South Africa should have stroled to victory in the day-night match after limiting India to 184 all out in 50 overs.

India admitted they were disappointed with their total after a first wicket partnership of 92, the touring team collapsing against occasional bowler Cronje in his 10 tight overs.

Having battered to deplete with the bat, India raised their game with the ball as the match took on the pattern of the Tests, with runs proving elusive.

Kepler Wessels laboured to 43 before being controversially run out on a television replay while Peter Kirsten rode his luck to make 56.

Then, with six needed off the last four balls, Cronje settled it in one hit to clinch his man-of-the-match award.

The crucial difference was in the fielding. South Africa caught everything they got a hand to, including efforts by Kirsten and Andrew Hudson that will long live in the memory of the 18,500 capacity crowd.

India dropped three catches, with captain Mohammad Azharuddin, so safe when it comes to reflex close catching, missing two huge skied edges in swirling

wind. India, having left out Ravi Shastri, were rewarded for their boldness by an ideal start from Ajay Jadeja (48) and Wookeri Raman (47). But both perished to poor shots against the medium pace of Cronje.

Allan Donald and Brian McMillan dismissed the dangerous pair of Azharuddin (9) and Sachin Tendulkar (15) respectively and had it not been for Kapil Dev's run-a-ball 27 India would have barely made 160.

South Africa began on course but Tendulkar put them

back in the lead with a six to take the total to 184.

India's total of 184 was made up of 100 runs from 10 batsmen and 84 runs from 10 batsmen.

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SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the one-day cricket international between South Africa and India on Monday:

INDIA:

A Jadeja c Kirsten b Cronje 48
W Raman b Cronje 47
M Azharuddin c Richardson b Donald 9
S Tendulkar b McMillan 15
S Manjrekar c Matthews b Cronje 13
P Amre c Hudson b Cronje 4
Kapil Dev c Cronje b McMillan 27
M Prabhakar c Wessels b Cronje 8
K More c Kirsten b Donald 4
A Kumble not out 3
J Srinath not out 0
Extras: (lb-5, nb-1) 6
Total: (all out, 50 overs) 184

Fall of wickets: 1-92; 2-103; 3-109; 4-113; 5-140; 6-140; 7-153; 8-158; 9-184.

Bowling: O M R W
Donald 10 2 32 2
De Villiers 7 2 24 0
Matthews 10 0 38 0
McMillan 10 0 42 2
Callaghan 3 0 11 0
Cronje 10 1 30 3

SOUTH AFRICA:

K Wessels run out 43
A Hudson c Prabhakar b Tendulkar 33
P Kirsten c Raman b Prabhakar 56
J Rhodes c Tendulkar b Srinath 13
D Callaghan not out 17
H Cronje not out 12
Extras: (lb-4, lb-5, w-1, nb-1) 11
Total: (four wickets, 49.3 overs) 185

Did not bat: B McMillan, D Richardson, C Matthews, A Donald, F de Villiers.

Fall of wickets: 1-56; 2-108; 3-140; 4-168.

Bowling: O M R W
Kapil Dev 10 1 43 0
Prabhakar 9.3 1 36 1
Tendulkar 10 1 25 1
Srinath 10 2 34 1
Kumble 10 0 38 0

Result: South Africa won by six wickets.

Bowe, Lewis eager for a bout

NEW YORK, Dec 8: Both heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe and Lennox Lewis, his main challenger, talked Monday night about wanting the fight that will not likely happen next, reports AP.

"If he'll take dls 3 million, I'm ready to go with him," said the 25-year-old Bowe, who became champion by outpointing Evander Holyfield on Nov 13 at Las Vegas.

"I am willing to take dls 3 million," said Lewis, of London, the top-ranked WBC challenger. "It's the glory. It's not the money."

Frank Maloney, Lewis' manager, said however, "I don't want him to do that. It's an insult. We're on [arguing] about it every day. That's why we don't have such a smashing relationship."

Both fighters attended an awards affair at a midtown

Manhattan hotel. Bowe agreed before beating Holyfield that if he won, he would defend the title against Lewis first.

Lewis won a WBC title elimination match by stopping Razor Ruddock on Oct 31 in London, and the WBC has said that if Bowe doesn't agree to defend against Lewis by Jan 2, it will recognize the latter as its champion.

Bowe said that should the WBC recognize Lewis, it would be meaningless.

"I am the man who beat the man (Holyfield) who beat the man (James 'Buster' Douglas) who beat the man (Mike Tyson)," Bowe said. "I think I

can be the heavyweight champion of the world as long as I want to be."

Bowe's manager, Rock Newman, said it is still possible Bowe would fight an unidentified opponent on the Fox network during halftime of the Super Bowl on Jan 31.

It also is known the HBO has made a more lucrative offer for Bowe to defend against

an undetermined opponent on Feb 6.

Newman said that he had offered Maloney and Lewis dls 3 million against a percentage to make his first defence against the Briton. Newman also said if they waited for Bowe's second defence, he would guarantee them dls 9 million.

At the Mark Grossinger Etes Foundation awards function, Bowe was presented the 1992 Fighter-of-the-Year award by The Ring magazine.

The Etes foundation gave the 1991 award to junior welterweight champion Pernell Whitaker.

The foundation raises money for the medical and educational needs of current and former boxers.

BGIC volleyball from tomorrow

Sports Reporter

The final round of the BGIC 15th national men's and 10th national women's volleyball championships will be held simultaneously from tomorrow December 10 to 14 in the city.

Twelve teams will compete in the men's event while 10 teams will vie for the women's trophy this year.

The championships will be considered as the qualifying meet for the fifth Bangladesh Games scheduled for December 18 to 25 in the capital.

The top eight male and six female teams of the national championships will participate in the quadrennial Games.

Twenty-eight male and 14 women teams participated in the qualifying round which was held in the first week of this month at various venues across the country.



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IOC Medical Commission chief Prince Alexandre de Merode told reporters it was essential to close loopholes at a time when courts seemed less interested in whether an athlete had taken drugs and more in whether there was a flaw in the test procedures.

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But he said sports bodies must have "perfect" rules to prevent athletes who failed test seeking escape through civil courts.

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